through formal initiative with respective Governments;

(c) if so, the details of the plans thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is aware of the academic deliberations for economic co-operation between China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh. These are at a preliminary stage.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Nuclear Disarmament

1228. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps Government have taken for universal nuclear disarmament in the unequal nuclear world order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Consistent with India's undiluted commitment to global nuclear disarmament, Government continues to support urgent commencement of multilateral negotiations aimed at elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound phased programme. To this end, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted an annual resolution tabled by India, which calls for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. India has also called on the international community to take interim practical steps that reduce the danger of nuclear war posed by the present hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons and prevailing doctrines of first-use. Government believes that a good beginning would be to formalize a no-first use agreement internationally as a step towards de-legitimising nuclear weapons.